



MEDIA RELEASE

City Parks Department Posts Beaches Following Shark Attack on Sea Lion

SANTA BARBARA, CA – July 24, 2012

At approximately 11:00 a.m. this morning, the Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center informed Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol of a reported shark-attack wound on a mature sea lion off East Beach. Harbor Patrol responded and photographed the injured animal. The Marine Mammal Center confirmed that the wound was from a great white shark. Based on this information, the Parks Department has placed warning signs at eight locations along City beaches and on its five lifeguard towers, advising of the attack and advising that swimmers should enter the water at their own risk. This action results from a joint plan for responding to shark sightings and/or attacks developed by the Parks and Recreation and Waterfront departments earlier this summer. Per that plan, the signs will be removed 72 hours after their placement unless further shark activity is observed.

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